4. The system of claim 1, wherein the probe comprises at least one electrode, wherein the at least one electrode is capable of stimulating a nerve to provoke an electromyographic response in the nerve.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the probe comprises an endoscope.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the probe comprises a distal tip, wherein the distal tip is configured to engage a patient's tissue.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the probe comprises a distal tip, wherein the distal tip is configured to engage a patient's bone.

8. A method of accessing a spine, comprising:

forming an incision in tissue;

placing a probe into the incision;

engaging an end of the probe with an intervertebral disc space;

positioning a mating retractor blade system over the probe, the mating retractor blade system comprising a blade assembly comprising a first blade rotatable about a first axis and a second blade rotatable about said first axis;

sliding the mating retractor blade system down and over the length of the probe;

moving the blade assembly in a direction generally perpendicular to the first axis;

activating the mating retractor blade system to open the mating retractor blade system by rotating the first and second blades relative to each other about said first axis to create an operative corridor;

wherein the movement of the blade assembly is independently controllable from the rotation of the first and second blades.

9. A method of accessing a surgery site, comprising:

forming an incision in tissue;

placing a probe into the incision;

anchoring an end of the probe at the surgery site;

positioning a mating retractor blade system over the probe, the mating retractor blade system comprising a blade assembly comprising a first blade rotatable about a first axis and a second blade rotatable about said first axis;

sliding the mating retractor blade system down the length of the probe;

moving the blade assembly in a direction generally perpendicular to the first axis;

activating the mating retractor blade system to open the mating retractor blade system to create an operative corridor;

wherein the movement of the blade assembly is independently controllable from the rotation of the first and second blades.

10. A method of accessing a human spine, comprising:

forming an incision in tissue;

inserting an endoscope into the incision, wherein the endoscope is configured to allow safe navigation to the spine;

sliding a mating retractor system in a close configuration over the endoscope, the mating retractor system comprising a blade assembly comprising a first blade rotatable about a first axis and a second blade rotatable about said first axis;

sliding the mating retractor system down and over at least a portion of the endoscope into the incision in tissue;

moving the blade assembly in a direction generally perpendicular to the first axis;

activating the mating retractor system to create an operative corridor in the tissue;

wherein the movement of the blade assembly is independently controllable from the rotation of the first and second blades.

11. A retractor comprising:

a first blade assembly comprising a first blade rotatable about a first axis, a second blade rotatable about said first axis and an adjuster in mechanical communication with the first and second blades and adapted to rotate the first and second blades relative to each other about said first axis;

a second blade assembly comprising at least a third blade rotatable about a second axis, a fourth blade rotatable about said second axis and, and an adjuster in mechanical communication with the third and fourth blades and adapted to rotate the third and fourth blades relative to each other about said second axis, wherein said second axis is different from said first axis; and

a means for moving said first blade assembly relative to said second blade assembly along a third axis that is not parallel to said first and second axes, wherein the movement of the first blade assembly along the third axis is independent of the rotation of the first blade and second blade about the first axis.

12. A retractor comprising:

a first blade assembly comprising a first blade rotatable about a first axis, a fixed second blade and an adjuster in mechanical communication with the first and second blades and adapted to rotate the first and second blades relative to each other about said first axis;

a second blade assembly comprising at least a third blade rotatable about a second axis wherein said second axis is different from said first axis; and

wherein said first blade assembly is movable relative to said second blade assembly along a third axis that is not parallel to said first and second axes, wherein the movement of the first blade assembly along the third axis is independent of the rotation of the first blade about the first axis;

wherein said first blade assembly is configured to detachably separate from said second blade assembly when said retractor is in an open configuration.

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